

Message Text

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SUBJ: OUTER SPACE: SYG' S BACKGROUND PAPER ON REMOTE SENSING

1. AT OPENING OF UN OUTER SPACE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE (STSC) SESSION P. M. MAY 7, CANADIAN DELOFFS SOUGHT OUT US DELOFF TO DISCUSS FUTURE DISPOSITION OF SYG' S BACKGROUND PAPER ON REMOTE SENSING. (BACKGROUND PAPER WAS PREPARED BY TASK FORCE OF CHAIRMAN AND SELECTED MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP ON REMOTE SENSING (WGRS) INCLUDING US, PLUS SECRETARIAT, FOR USE BY WGRS AT ITS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION IN JAN- FEB 1973. DRAFTING OF CHAPTERS ON LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND, TO SOME EXTENT, ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, PROVED CONTENTIOUS PROCESS ; CONVERSELY, FIRST THREE CHAPTERS ON STATE OF THE ART, POTENTIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS, AND POTENTIAL USER NEEDS, WERE NON- CONTROVERSIAL. DOCUMENT AS WHOLE CONTAINS DISCLAIMER OF ENDORSEMENT OF VIEWPOINTS BY TASK FORCE MEMBERS OR SECRETARIAT. PER WGRS REQUEST, SECRETARIAT UPDATED PAPER FOR CURRENT STSC SESSION BY APPENDING ADDENDUM REFLECTING VARIOUS WG MEMBERS' SUBMISSIONS CONCERNING MATTERS COVERED IN PAPER, LARGELY LEGAL. OVERALL DISCLAIMER OF ENDORSEMENT RETAINED.)

2. CANADIANS INDICATED THEY PLAN TO MOVE THAT BACKGROUND PAPER
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AS WHOLE BE UPDATED AT CURRENT STSC SESSION BY DRAFTING GROUP WHICH WOULD AMALGAMATE SECRETARIAT ADDENDUM INTO BODY OF TEXT. REVISED BACKGROUND PAPER WOULD THEN BE CIRCULATED TO ALL UN MEMBERS AS ACCOMPANIMENT TO NEW QUESTIONNAIRE FROM WGRS CHAIRMAN

ON POTENTIAL USER NEEDS AND PROBLEMS. CANADIANS ASKED DELOFF' S VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL.

3. DRAWING ON INSTRUCTIONS, DELOFF EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT FIRST THREE CHAPTERS OF PAPER COULD PROVIDE USEFUL INFORMATION TO COUNTRIES WHICH WERE NOT OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. HOWEVER, HE RECALLED PROBLEMS WITH LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHAPTERS AND SUGGESTED THAT ATTEMPTING TO REVISE THEM COULD REOPEN CONTROVERSY, PERHAPS MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CIRCULATING ANY DOCUMENT FOR NON- OSC MEMBERS' USE. CANADIANS RESPONDED THAT FULLY INFORMATIVE ACCOMPANIMENT TO NEW QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD SET OUT LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF, NEW TECHNOLOGY OF REMOTE SENSING. US DELOFF EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS BUT SAID HE WOULD REPORT CANADIAN VIEWS.

4. UK DELOFF LATER VOLUNTEERED STRONG DISQUIET OVER CANADIAN PLANS, STATING THAT TO HAVE STSC TAKE UP LEGAL- ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES WOULD BE TO " REOPEN CAN OF WORMS." HE WONDERED WHETHER CONCERTED EFFORT TO DISSUADE CANADIANS FROM PRESSING THEIR PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE HOPE OF SUCCESS.

5. COMMENT: STSC CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION OF FUTURE USE OF SYG' S BACKGROUND PAPER COULD COME AS EARLY AS THURSDAY, MAY 10 , WHEN SUBCOMMITTEE TAKES UP WGRS REPORT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON BEST TACTICS UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. WE RAISE QUESTION OF LETTING UPDATED BACKGROUND PAPER GO OUT TO GENERAL UN MEMBERSHIP UNDER THESE CONDITIONS: (A) NEW MATERIAL REMAINS AS UNAMALGAMATED ADDENDUM; (B) DISCLAIMER OF ENDORSEMENT BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND SECRETARIAT RETAINED; (C) TITLE OF DOCUMENT REMAINS " BACKGROUND PAPER" AND IS NOT CHANGED TO " SECRETARY- GENERAL' S REPORT" OR ANALOGOUS FORMULATION WHICH WOULD CONFER UNDESIRABLY AUTHORITATIVE CONNOTATION TO SUBSTANCE OF DOCUMENT. BESIDES KEEPING LEVEL OF AUTHORITY OF PAPER AS WHOLE ACCEPTABLY LOW, THIS APPROACH MIGHT AVOID PROBLEMS OF ATTEMPTED REVISION OF LEGAL- ORGANIZATIONAL CHAPTERS BY DRAFTING GROUP FORMED FROM STSC DELEGATIONS MANY OF WHICH LACK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ADEQUATE LEGAL EXPERTISE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IF THERE IS TO BE ANY FURTHER CIRCULATION OF MATERIAL IN BACKGROUND PAPER, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS DETACHED AND PUBLISHED AS SEPARATE DOCUMENT WHILE LEGAL- ORGANIZATIONAL SECTION IS SHELVED. THIS OUTCOME, HOWEVER, WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN AND EFFORT IN THAT DIRECTION OBVIOUSLY MORE CONTROVERSIAL.
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